

quered to provide the amount of food which is indispensable in order to restore fully his working power, an unyielding, inexorable law or necessity compels him to have recourse to spirits. He must work, but in consequence of insufficient food, a certain portion of his working power is daily wanting. Spirits, by their action on the nerves, enable him to make up the deficient power at the expense of his body,—to consume to day that quantity which ought naturally to have been employed a day later. He draws, so to speak, a bill on his health, which must be always renewed, because, for want of means, he cannot take it up: he consumed his capital instead of his interest; and the result is the inevitable bankruptcy of his body."

This work, in its more professional views and details, teems with the power of genius and original research, and no work on chemistry ever written is probably so capable of exciting an abiding interest in it as a practical science in which we are all vitally interested.

Hoffstadt's Development of the True Principles of Christian or Pointed Architecture. Translated and Edited by JOHN PHILIP. London: Richardson and Son. 1851.

The first part contains some nicely drawn illustrations, but contains no elucidation of the "principles;" we must, therefore, wait. The prospectus says, in curious English:—

"We possess a great number of precious examples that offer a most varied choice of the principal mediæval monuments; but when it is the subject to execute a design in this style, it is too often the case that the result is but an ensemble of divers models and details which were the most convenient to the individual for the purpose of his plan. It will, therefore, be easily understood that, after this manner of proceeding, it were impossible to produce a single construction that could compete with the productions of the Middle Ages, much more less likely when one is confined merely to a superficial appearance, without any concern as to the fundamental principles which give to this style of architecture its true character."

Miscellaneous.

GELATINE CASTS.—By the use of gelatine, elastic moulds are formed capable of reproducing, with accuracy, and in a single piece, the most elaborately-sculptured objects, of exquisite finish and delicacy. Casts from these are now common in the streets. The credit of the application of this substance to the purpose is due, it is stated, to Mons. H. Vincent. The process of casting consists in dissolving a certain quantity of gelatine in hot water until it is reduced to the state of liquid paste, when it is run over the object intended to be reproduced. As it cools, the gelatine assumes a consistency offering a considerable degree of resistance, and highly elastic, which latter quality enables it to be easily detached from the work on which it has been fitted. In the hollow formed by the gelatine, a choice kind of plaster, prepared for the purpose, is next run; and when the plaster has acquired the requisite degree of hardness, the gelatine mould is detached in the same manner as from the original: from this apparently fragile mould as many as six copies may be taken, all reproducing the original with unerring fidelity. It appears that numerous difficulties had to be overcome before such a result could be obtained. The chief of these consisted in preventing the two plastic substances, each impregnated with a certain quantity of water, from becoming wedded together, or retaining on their surfaces traces of the deposits of plaster or gelatine, as was constantly the case in the first experiments. By this process casts are produced with much greater rapidity than by the old mode.

PROPRIETY IN THE MUSEO BORRONICO.—A writer in the *Athenæum* says,—"We find the iron gates which formerly closed the entrance to the galleries on the ground-floor no longer shut; and the once officious and exacting custode who held the keys to exhumed

treasures of this chaotic land now wanders dumb and melancholy along the silent chambers. So far, there is an improvement. Those who are familiar with its treasures will remember the room of the Venuses, where the new Neapolitan Government, in its intense regard for public morals, had gathered together in darkness all the representatives 'of her who worketh war in tender hearts.' There they stood, shut out from the world like the ladies of the East: with this exception, however, that you could get admission to the marble harem for eightpence, if one of the ruder sex,—whilst Lady Mary Wortley Montagu herself could not have succeeded in getting anything more than a key-hole view of this Olympian paradise. Well, the matter now is set at rest for both sexes: the room is nailed up, and neither love nor money can gain a glimpse of these vice-inspiring marbles. 'What is the meaning of this?' said I to the custode.—'Eh! chi sa?—The Minister of Public Instruction!'—that is, the Jesuits! Really this is too absurd.—Naples is idle,—kept in a high state of morality by locking up Parian ladies who were brought into this world long before Paris began to dress her female population in Adelaide boots and pink bonnets! Still greater is the absurdity when one remembers the state of society in Naples. No city in the world has more romantic histories (for 'romantic' read 'shameless') in its fashionable world, whilst the crimes of the priesthood are as familiar to good Catholics as salt fish. But hypocrisy insists on making its onslaught on the fine arts,—and indulgence to the flesh is to be purchased at the expense of the marble."

INTRAMURAL INTERMENTS.—From inquiries lately instituted by Mr. George, churchwarden of St. Ann's, Westminster, on the subject, it appears that the number of interments in the vaults of the parish church during the last 160 years has been 1,920, of which there remain now only 490 coffins, and it is supposed that the remaining 1,430 have been abstracted for the value of the lead of which the coffins were composed. In the open burial ground, three-quarters of an acre in extent, there have been 13,786 interments during the last 20 years, and 110,240 during the last 160 years. The government calculation of interments to the acre is 110, but it appears that there have been in this ground upwards of 1,000 to the acre. When will the Board of Health carry out the new law against burying the dead amongst the living?—*Daily News.*—[We can state that the arrangements for the purchase of the existing cemeteries are going on, and that the delay does not rest with the Board of Health.]

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—The annual meeting of this society will be held at Bristol. The following is the official programme of proceedings:—Tuesday, July 29.—Reception-room at the Council House.—Introductory meeting at twelve, at the Guildhall, by permission of the mayor.—Resignation of the president's chair by the Lord Talbot de Malahide to John Scandrett Harford, Esq., president elect.—The regalia and monuments of the corporation will be displayed in the Council Chamber.—Visits to the Cathedral, churches, and objects of interest in or near Bristol.—The Museum of the Institute will be opened at the Bishop's College, Park-street.—Meeting and Conversations in the evening at the Institution, Park-street, at eight.—Wednesday, July 30.—Meetings of sections at ten.—The historical section will assemble in the theatre of the Bristol Institution, Park-street.—The architectural section in the Chapter House of the Cathedral, by permission of the dean and chapter.—At two o'clock a visit is proposed to St. Mary Redcliffe Church, when the striking features of that structure, and the progress of its restoration will be pointed out by Mr. Godwin.—Meeting of the section of antiquities in the evening, at the Bristol Institution, Park-street.—Thursday, July 31.—Sectional meetings at ten.—Annual celebration of the Osmington Society, at St. Mary Redcliffe Church, at two.—The members of that society will join the members and visitors at the public dinner of the Institute at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton,

at six; Mr. J. S. Harford, the president of both societies in the chair. Friday, August 1.—Excursion to Wells.—Professor Willis will discourse on the architectural history of the Cathedral. Saturday, August 2.—Sectional meetings at ten. Monday, August 4.—Excursions. Tuesday, August 5.—Meeting at ten for reading communications to the several sections.—Concluding general meeting at the Guildhall at twelve. The secretaries are Messrs. Charles Tucker, George Vulliamy, and Albert Way.

BRISTOL ATHENÆUM COMPETITION.—The plans sent in for the Bristol Athenæum, in reply to the advertisements, were referred by the committee to Professor Donaldson. The following portion of his report will show the result:—"I am of opinion that out of the twenty-one projects submitted in competition, the following designs, as numbered by the committee, possess considerable merit,—Nos. 1, 5A, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 19; but I recommend, as best adapted to the requirements of the institution, and consequently as best entitled to the premiums,—No. 6, by Messrs. Foster and Wood, of Bristol, for twenty guineas; No. 10, by Messrs. Lloyd and Co., of Bristol, for ten guineas; No. 1, by Messrs. Gabriel and Hirst, of Bristol, for five guineas. I beg to offer my congratulations to the directors upon the success of the competition, which affords them the opportunity of adopting a design for their building which will be so creditable to the institution."

THE FERRO-VITREOUS ORDER OF CONSTRUCTION.—**MAP-CYPOLAS.**—**ROOF-CONSERVATORIES.**—The Exchange at Antwerp is to be surmounted by a cupola of glass and iron, so arranged as to represent a map of the globe. The lines of longitude and latitude will be formed by the bars, between which the glass will be fixed, bearing the map in colours. We sometimes feel surprised, says a contemporary, "that with the present reduced price of glass and iron no attempts are being made among us to convert the roofs of our houses into conservatories. In many situations in towns such an accommodation, more especially in wet weather and winter time, would be found to be 'a real blessing' to children and a great comfort to parents. Safe from danger, dry, and warm—a stove being easily laid into the chimney sufficient to air the apartment—children who have now nowhere to recreate themselves during such seasons but perhaps a low kitchen or dark back-parlour, or what is worse still, a miserable damp and dark yard, would be enabled to take exercise amidst flowers and shrubs in an elevated and healthy atmosphere which would be of incalculable benefit to their health. Where parapet walls already exist, with a walking space between it and the roof, it is only necessary that these walls should be capped with sashes to the height of about four feet, and a glass roof be carried over to rest upon the existing tiled or slated roof, and the conservatory, so far as its outward arrangements are concerned, would be formed at once: tiers of shelves would then only have to be raised resting upon the old roof, and the garden would at once be ready for the reception of plants. Were the owners or occupiers of several adjoining houses to fall in with the plan, a beautiful glazed promenade might be obtained for the families in inclement weather, which, we humbly conceive, would be felt as a great acquisition to a residence in a thronged part of the town. All houses in future to be erected in the more densely populated parts of towns, more especially large houses, ought, in our humble opinion, to be roofed with glass. No addition, we believe, would be by these means made to the expense of roofing, whilst a great amount of benefit, in a sanitary and domestic point of view, would be conferred upon the families occupying them by the adoption of such a plan."

OPENING OF THE FISHMONGERS' ALMSHOUSES AT WANDSWORTH.—St. Peter's Hospital, being completed, was formally opened on Tuesday in last week, and taken possession of by the hospitaliers. We gave a view of it some time ago. The almshouses are forty-two in number, forming three sides of a square. The architect was Mr. Richard Bate.